

Boundaries

Determining Success with Boundaries

November 13, 2016 / Phil Bischoff

Boundaries won't necessarily...

1. Make my life _____.
2. Make others do what _____.

¹James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

James 1:1, NIV

To determine success with boundaries, I must know my _____ and _____ in life. I also must view myself not as a _____, but as part of a _____.

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4, NIV

Maintaining boundaries means facing _____.

I'm winning when I consider those trials as helpful tests that _____ me and deepen my _____ on God's love.

⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

James 1: 5-8, NIV

God's generosity and grace are _____.

I'm winning when...

- ✓ I go to him in prayer for _____,
- ✓ My prayers are anchored on _____ power, not _____.

⁹Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position.¹⁰ But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower.¹¹ For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business. James 1:9-11, NIV

⁵Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

James 2:5, NIV

I'm winning when my boundaries lead me towards _____ and keep me from _____ everything.

¹²Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. James 1:12, NIV

Success is knowing I've already ____! Because of _____ I can persevere through anything as I head towards _____.

MEMORY VERSE

¹²Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. James 1:12, NIV

My next step: I'll persevere in maintaining Godly boundaries, praying for wisdom while fixing my eyes on what Jesus already won for me.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.



Determining Success with Boundaries | 11/13 - 11/19

Let's Get Started: What are your plans for Thanksgiving Day/Weekend?

Back to Sunday:

What is a boundary in your life that has *changed* over the years, but still has *served you well*?

According to the message notes, a “successful” boundary is one that lets me face tests in life and deepens my trust in God. Using this definition, what are spiritual boundaries that you will want to establish?

Digging into God’s Word:

Read 1 John 5

Highlight any verse or thoughts that jump out at you.

Share your preliminary thoughts with the group.

1 John 5:3 Why might Christ’s commands seem burdensome at times? How can John say God’s commands are not burdensome?

1 John 5:5-6 There were those at John’s time who denied Jesus was true God. By pointing to water – Jesus’ baptism, blood - Jesus’ suffering and death, and spirit – The work of the Holy Spirit, John points to the evidence we have that our sins are forgiven. Jesus Christ, true God and true man died on the cross to pay for our sins.

Why is it a dangerous and false teaching to say that only Jesus, a man, died on the cross?

1 John 5:11-12 Do these words – especially verse 12 – remind you of other words that John wrote in his gospel?

Why is verse 12 so encouraging and sobering at the same time?

Compare 1 John 5:13 with John 20:31.

According to these verses why did John write his gospel and letters?

Note: In verse 16-17 the “sin that leads to death” is most likely the vehement denial of the work of Jesus which is what John was writing against in this letter.

Taking It Home:

Jerry was involved in service at his church and really got burned. He made a new boundary that he would “never serve at church again.” How would you approach a conversation with Jerry about possible service in the future?

Agree or Disagree If I am drawing my boundaries properly, I will always have a degree of discomfort in my life.

Explain: With every phase of life I go through, I need to address/redraw many of the boundaries I have.

Close with Prayer: